

tests have been run on compounds within the scope of the German Offenlegungsschrift's disclosure wherein X and Z along with the carbon atom to which they are bonded form a piperidine ring substituted on the N atom with alkyl groups having less than 4 carbon atoms, i.e., methyl, ethyl, n-propyl and iso-propyl. With respect to the compounds claimed in the present application, Applicants have tested the compounds wherein R is a linear or branched alkyl group having 4 or 5 carbon atoms, i.e., n-butyl, iso-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, 3-methyl-butyl, 1-methyl-butyl, 1-ethyl-propyl and 1,2-dimethyl-propyl. As may be readily ascertained from an inspection of the data presented in the accompanying affidavit, the plasmatic curves (AUC) of the compounds of this invention are much higher than those of the products of the prior art. Additionally, the minimal concentration able to inhibit any visible growth and the dose able to protect from death 50% of animals infected with mycobacterium tuberculosis $H_{37}R_v$ were determined. The minimal concentration able to inhibit any visible growth (MIC) of the compounds of this invention have values ranging from the same magnitude down to 100 times lower than those of the closest prior art. Furthermore, the dose able to protect from death 50% of the infected animals (PD_{50}) for the compounds of this invention may be 1/4 that of the prior art compounds.

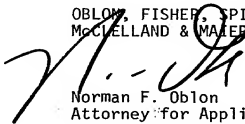
In summary, the rifamycin compounds of this invention are neither disclosed by the German Offenlegungsschrift nor rendered obvious thereby. Additionally, Applicants have shown unexpected results with respect to compari-

sons between all of the relevant compounds disclosed by the German Offenlegungsschrift and those compounds most closely related which are within the scope of the claims of the present application.

For the reasons set forth above, this application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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